

Message Text

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ACTION IO-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 /128 W
-----045059 301935Z /43

R 282055Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3710
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
USINT HAVANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN NEW YORK 03865

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SL, UNGA, PORG
SUBJECT: UNGA BILATERALS: FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH OF
- SIERRA LEONE

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHNSON ACCOMPANIED
BY DESK OFFICER HART, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
ABDULAI CONTEH OF SIERRA LEONE IN NEW YORK ON
SEPTEMBER 28.

2. IN RESPONSE TO JOHNSON'S EXPRESSION OF CONTINUING
INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, CONTEH SAID HE RECOGNIZES
U.S. SINCERITY ON SUBJECT BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER SAME
STANDARDS COULD BE APPLIED TO SIERRA LEONE, JUST
EMERGED FROM COLONIAL STATUS, AS TO U.S. WITH LONG
TRADITION OF LIBERTY.

3. JOHNSON SUMMARIZED U.S. POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN
ISSUE IN UN, AND CONTEH REPLIED THAT GOSL AGREES THAT
PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES SHOULD HAVE LAST WORD ON THEIR
STATUS, AND ALSO THAT PUERTO RICO IS NOT A CLASSIC
COLONIAL SITUATION. HE MADE NO COMMITMENTS ON FUTURE
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SL ACTIONS ON PUERTO RICO IN UN.

4. CONTEH DECLARED THAT TO TALK OF CUBANS ACTING AS
SURROGATES OF SOVIETS IS "MISREADING THE PICTURE,"
THAT CUBA IS NOT IN FACT SOVIET SURROGATE, "AT LEAST
NOT CONSCIOUSLY." HE SAID AFRICANS DO NOT WANT TO BE
DOMINATED BY OUTSIDERS AGAIN (IN REFERENCE TO COLONIAL

PAST), BUT SOMETIMES MUST TAKE HELP WHERE THEY CAN GET IT.

5. JOHNSON ASKED CONTEH'S VIEW ON BEST MEDIUM FOR MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. CONTEH AGREED THAT FULLY ADEQUATE INSTITUTIONS LACKING, AND REPLIED THAT SINCE OAU IS PREOCCUPIED WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA, REGIONAL BODIES SUCH AS ECOWAS SHOULD WORK BEST FOR TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS. HE FEELS ECOWAS WILL EVENTUALLY FULFILL ITS BROADER PURPOSES.

6. CONTEH EXPECTS TO BE IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 5 AND 6, AND EXPRESSED HOPE OF CALLING ON DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THEN. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780400-0497
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978098/aaaaagvm.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8587e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1480245
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNGA BILATERALS: FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH OF - SIERRA LEONE
TAGS: PORG, SL, US, UNGA, (CONTEH, ABDULAI), (HART, ROGER L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8587e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014